



The Most Wonderful Thing in The World

By Vivian French

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The Most Wonderful Thing in The World By Vivian French

Stunning illustrations enhance a deft retelling of this classic tale of a king, a queen, a princess, legions of suitors, and a treasure hidden in plain sight.

Once upon a time, a king and a queen promise to marry their daughter to the young man who can show them the most wonderful thing in the world. Suitors arrive at the palace, one after the other, with elaborate gifts of jewels, inventions, and even mythical beasts, but nothing feels quite right to the overwhelmed majesties. It is only when a shy young man, who isn't a suitor at all, steps forward that the king and queen finally understand what the most wonderful thing in the world actually is. Vivian French's touching fairy tale is made all the more enchanting by the many subtle surprises included in Angela Barrett's exquisite illustrations.

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Editorial Review

Review

French is a skilled storyteller, and with the help of Angela Barrett's illustrations invoking steampunk, Edwardian style and a gilded Venice, she reminds us how fresh a fairy tale can feel in the right hands.
—The New York Times

Barrett's watercolor illustrations are full of exquisite color and detail, referencing not only Venetian architectural monuments, but Martha Graham dance and the Tin Man among other cultural milestones. Lightly wraps the love of family as the center of life in a silken gown of word and image, with a playful undercurrent of both whimsy and irony.
—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

Barrett (*The Night Fairy*) conjures a magical mood, picturing fantasies and modern marvels in jewel-like watercolor vignettes, and a peaceful ambience reigns as Lucia and Salvatore elegantly solve Angelo's puzzle. A mellifluous fairy tale, drenched in Edwardian splendor.
—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

Children will enjoy the well-told story for its own sake and the beautifully composed pictures for their intricacy and their sometimes surprising details. Based on a story Barrett loved in childhood, this tale is retold and illustrated with considerable grace.
—Booklist (starred review)

Barrett's watercolor drawings have the requisite detail to make this a story to pore over, and circulation among the princess- and fairy tale-loving crowd is guaranteed. A lovely choice for large collections.
—School Library Journal

Elegant.

—The Wall Street Journal

About the Author

Vivian French writes for children of all ages. She is much loved for her comic fiction in the Tales from the Five Kingdoms series and her picture books, including *Growing Frogs*, *T. Rex*, and *Caterpillar, Caterpillar*, but her heart lies in retelling traditional stories and writing fairy tales of her own. Vivian French lives in Scotland.

Angela Barrett is the award-winning illustrator of *The Night Fairy* and more than two dozen other books for children, including classic tales, fairy tales, story collections, and picture books. She lives in London.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thomas Abrams:

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Charles Carter:

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